

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)

Monthly Ebulletin



<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention>

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December 2016 Edition

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You Spoke, We Listened!

Thank you to everyone who gave us their feedback through the DDP E-Bulletin survey. As you can see, we have already begun to incorporate your ideas into the E-Bulletin. The most immediate changes include some design and navigation features. There is now a top/horizontal navigation bar that allows easy access to the DDP website and our social media page for information you may need. In addition, there is a right navigation bar that allows you to quickly go to specific articles. Directly under the top navigation bar is a link to view the E-Bulletin in a PDF format in case your browser or e-mail client will not display the E-Bulletin or fonts as originally intended. The PDF E-Bulletin allows printing so you can share it with colleagues and at meetings.

More updates to the E-Bulletin will be occurring in the coming months based on your feedback. Again, thank you for detailed and constructive responses.

White House Releases Progress Report on National HIV/AIDS Strategy, Fact Sheet, and Video on World AIDS Day 2016

On World AIDS Day, December 1, the White House released the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: Updated to 2020 2016 Progress Report](#) that describes endeavors and progress of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020, notably on nine indicators including new HIV diagnoses, HIV death rate, knowledge of HIV status, linkage to care rate, and viral suppression. Additionally, the report includes three developmental indicators: increased viral suppression among transgender women in medical care to 90%, increased use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) by 500%, and reduced stigma by 25%.



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VDH Messages

To ensure you receive e-mail messages, such as the DDP E-Bulletin or announcements about funding opportunities, please check that important DDP contacts (such as your contact monitor) are in your address book so that their e-mails are not sent to your spam or junk folders. Check those folders regularly to see if you have missed messages.

ADAP Enrollment Numbers as of 11/8/16

In addition to the report, the White House released a new [fact sheet](#) and a [video](#) on HIV.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is in the midst of the 2017 ACA Open Enrollment Period which began November 1, 2016 and runs through January 31, 2017. This program has allowed previously uninsured individuals to access insurance through ADAP at no cost. VDH will continue to provide updates to stakeholders via e-mail. For more information about covered plans and enrollment sites, please check the [VDH ADAP website](#).

NASTAD Affirms Global HIV Experts' Statement That People Living with HIV on Effective Treatment Cannot Transmit HIV

In September, at the 2016 International AIDS Conference, the National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) announced that it signed on to the Prevention Access Campaign's (PAC) [consensus statement](#) affirming that people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy who have achieved a sustained undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV. This move was supported by [new data](#) presented at the conference from the [PARTNER](#) study that further refined the estimate from [two years ago](#) that established that the chance of an HIV-positive person with an undetectable viral load transmitting HIV to be very low. The most recent results include 888 couples, 38% of them same-sex male couples, which encompassed an estimated 58,213 sex acts. The lack of transmissions in this study equates to the lowest-likely estimate for the chance of an undetectable HIV-positive partner transmitting HIV, which is zero.

Further validation comes from top researchers in the field, such as Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, Director of the Division of AIDS, NIAID at the National Institutes of Health, who in a recent [NIH interview](#) said, "Once you begin therapy and you stay on therapy, with full virologic suppression, you are not capable of transmitting HIV to a sexual partner." Additionally, Dr. Rich Wolitski, Acting Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS, and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP) at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) produced this [blog](#) discussing this scientific advancement.

Understanding that people with HIV who are on effective anti-retroviral treatment and achieve a sustained undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV to their partners will help reduce decades of HIV-related stigma and discrimination. This understanding will also encourage people with HIV to initiate and adhere to a successful anti-retroviral treatment regimen.

Facing Addiction in America: the Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health

In November, the first-ever [Surgeon General's Report on Drugs, Alcohol, and Health](#) was released by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This report emphasizes important health and social problems associated with alcohol and drug misuse in America.

- Total Clients Enrolled: 6,034
- Direct ADAP Clients: 1,741
- Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Clients: 548
- Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP) Clients: 210
- Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP) Enrollment Clients: 3,235

Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment Assistance Program Numbers as of 11/26/16

- Total Clients that have Accessed Program: 71
- Clients that have Completed Therapy: 55
- Clients currently on Treatment: 16

ADAP Listserv

To request to be added to the ADAP Listserv to receive updates, please contact [Carrie Rhodes](#) at (804) 864-7914.

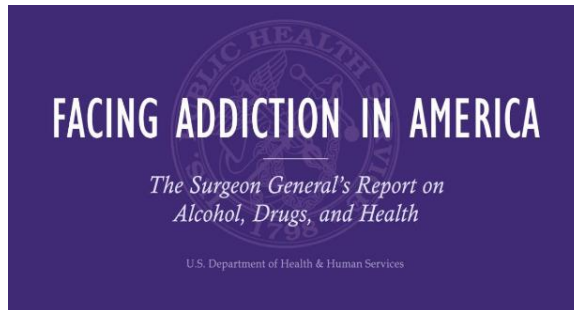
Stay Connected!

Check out upcoming events on the DDP [HIV Prevention webpage](#). You can request to have your own events added to the calendar and our Facebook page through the Event Submission Form, located on the events page under the events calendar.

For those using a compatible web browser, you may also download the [Event Submission Form](#) directly and submit it following the directions at the

The *Surgeon General's Report* serves as an excellent educational tool on substance use disorders and provides biological, psychological, and social frameworks for improving diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of alcohol and drug misuse. Additionally, the *Report*

describes recent changes in health care financing, including changes in health insurance regulations, which supports integration of clinical prevention and treatment services for substance use disorders into mainstream health care practice, and defines a research agenda for addressing alcohol and drug misuse as medical conditions. The *Report* also is designed to help inform policymakers, health care professionals, and the general public about effective, practical, and sustainable strategies to address these problems. These strategies have the potential to substantially reduce substance misuse, improve treatment outcomes, and improve health outcomes for persons who abuse drugs.



bottom of the sheet. “Like” our DDP [Facebook page](#) and share it with your friends to stay connected socially and hear about events throughout the state.

Save the Dates: Medical Provider Training in Addiction Disease Management

From January 18 to March 31, 2017, *Removing the Frustration with Opiate Use in Clinical Practice*, will be offered in various locations throughout the state. The no-cost training for clinicians, behavioral health professionals, and practice administrators on Virginia Medicaid’s Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) is a cooperative project between the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (Medicaid), the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Virginia Department of Health Professions. ARTS is a new benefit under Medicaid with rates increased up to 400% for many substance abuse services and some services higher than commercial plans.

The training covers assessment, screening and monitoring patients at risk for addiction, identifying addiction as an underlying disease, and the integration of outpatient clinical practices with behavioral care interventions as part of Addiction Disease Management. The training will also cover: how to remove barriers and address challenges to integration, coordination and operational practice; the framework content for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine; and development of a seamless addiction treatment primary care model. Continuing medical education (CMEs) are available attendees. For more information on dates and locations, please contact [Lisa Wooten](#).

VDH Data Portal

The VDH data portal website is now live on the external website, with the sexually transmitted infection (STI) data portal located at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/sexually-transmitted-infections/>. It was developed to provide a convenient access point for health-related data for Virginia. This data portal is a comprehensive source for interactive community health assessment, public, and population health data. Questions regarding the data portal should be

directed to population.health@vdh.virginia.gov. STI data are still available on DDP's [STI webpage](#).

Updated Legislation for Molecular HIV Surveillance

As of October 20, 2016, Virginia regulations now require labs to report all HIV nucleotide sequences to VDH. HIV nucleotide sequences are used to identify antiretroviral drug resistance, evaluate genetic mutations associated with antiretroviral drug resistance, and monitor drug resistant strains of HIV in Virginia. Currently, the Molecular HIV Surveillance (MHS) team is working with the final laboratory that conducts nucleotide genotyping tests on Virginia residents to facilitate secure transfer of data. For additional information on the Molecular HIV Surveillance program at VDH, please contact [Carrie Walker](#) at (804) 864-8005.

PrEP Resources from the National Library of Medicine

Looking for resources on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) all in one place? Visit the [PrEP Navigation Resources](#) page of the National Library of Medicine. The site includes information for both providers and the public including clinical guidelines, recommendations, infographics and patient education materials.

Virginia Receives New Hepatitis Grant

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a new grant to DDP to improve hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV) care cascades. The grant focuses on increasing testing and diagnosis in Virginia, and linking those with infection to care. Efforts will focus on using Virginia hepatitis morbidity and mortality data to select health care providers (such as federally-qualified health centers) serving populations impacted by health disparities in target areas of high morbidity for HBV and HCV. Selected providers where hepatitis testing is lacking will be approached and asked to consider implementing evidence-based interventions to increase the number of people tested and linked to care. Contact [Rachel Culp](#), SODA's Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, for questions related to this grant or other hepatitis prevention activities.

DDP will continue existing viral hepatitis testing activities despite the change in grant-funded priorities. Testing coordination and contract monitoring has transitioned to [Emily Cothran](#), SODA's Health Promotion and Planning Coordinator.

Crater Health District Receives Rapid Syphilis Testing Grant

STD staff are pleased to be collaborating with the Crater Health District on a new grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials to help identify optimal uses of the rapid syphilis test. The funding, which begins in January 2017, will support rapid syphilis testing at correctional facilities and educational institutions in and around the Crater Health District. For more information on this collaborate, please contact [Ashley Carter](#). Congratulations, Crater Health District staff!



Become a NCSD Member! → [Insert NCSD logo.png](#)



We encourage you to join the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) as an associate member to gain access to coalition communications such as STD-related member and policy updates, news from the CDC Division of STD Prevention, and other important information from the field. Associate membership is free! To join, simply complete the [new member form](#) and email it to

lmathias@ncsddc.org or fax it to (202) 842-4542.

Collaboration for Rectal Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Screening

NovaSalud, Inc. and the Alexandria Health Department have teamed up to provide rectal chlamydia/gonorrhea NAAT testing for the community. NovaSalud's staff assists with specimen collection and results are returned to clinicians at the Alexandria Health Department. Health department staff subsequently follow up with patients for treatment, as appropriate. This program has been running since July 2016, with 11% positivity for both chlamydia and gonorrhea to date.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Community Advancement Project Update

The Community Advancement Project (CAP) held a regional advisory board meeting in Central Virginia on November 30th to assess regional needs for gay and bisexual men of color. The advisory board has worked to identify health needs of gay and bisexual men of color including mental health, awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), substance abuse, domestic violence, perceptions of gay and bisexual men of color in the media, testing, stigma, access to treatment, etc.

If you would like to participate or receive more information please contact [Joshua Thomas](#) at (804) 864-7552.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome



Please welcome back **Kerri Johnson** to the HIV Surveillance program as a Data Support Technician. Kerri can be reached at (804) 864-8037 or kerri.johnson@vdh.virginia.gov.



Welcome to **Chelsea Caumont** as the new HIV Testing Data Analyst for HIV Prevention. Chelsea comes to DDP with experience in writing/editing, education, and administration/management. She has a BA in Linguistics and Philosophy from the College of William and Mary, and is a registered yoga instructor through Yoga Alliance. Chelsea can be reached at (804) 864-7945 or chelsea.caumont@vdh.virginia.gov.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kimberly Scott**, the new HIV Care Services (HCS) Director, effective December 10, 2016. Prior to this promotion, Kimberly served as the HCS Assistant Director and formally acted in the HCS Director role. She joined VDH in the Spring of 2015 and has played a key role in several initiatives including developing the first integrated HIV care and prevention plan and increasing service access in the far Southwest region of Virginia. Kimberly brings impressive experience such as her time as a Senior Program Officer at National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine, analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office and HIV Consortium Administrator in North Carolina.

